GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:346
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2007
LOWER INTEREST RATES
Khan Shri Mohammad Tahir;Vijay Krishna Shri

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to lower interest rates for the agriculture sector and provide cheaper farm inputs in view of the growing distress of the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to set up a corpus fund for the farmers;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the composition of the fund;

(e) whether Government has also set up/proposes to set up special zones for the farmers;

(f) if so, the details and locations thereof, State-wise; and

(g) the time by which these are likely to be set up?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)&(b): Effective from Kharif 2006-07, the Government has already lowered the interest rates on crop loans to 7% with an upper limit of Rs.3 lakhs on the principal amount. It has been decided to continue this policy for the year 2007-08 also. Besides, Government is already subsidizing other major inputs like Fertilizers and Seeds.

(c): No, Sir.

(d): Does not arise.

(e): No, Sir.

(f)&(g): Do not arise.